

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 239837

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: SOPN, PINT, GR

SUBJECT: SPEECH RE 1967 GREEK COUP AND THE U.S. ROLE

1. FORMER CIA OFFICER JOHN M. MAURY ADDRESSED GREEK-AMERICAN SOCIAL ORGANIZATION, THE ATHENAEUM, SEPT 30 AT AMERICAN UNIVERSITY, WASHINGTON, ON SUBJECT OF "THE 1967 GREEK COUP AND THE US ROLE". APPROXIMATELY 120 PEOPLE WERE PRESENT.

2. MAURY SPEECH GENERALLY STUCK CLOSELY TO ARTICLE IN MAY 1 WASHINGTON POST (COPY OF WHICH PREVIOUSLY PROVIDED EMBASSY ATHENS). IN RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS, MAURY EXPANDED ON HIS ARTICLE ALONG FOLLOWING LINES.

3. CONCERNING ANDREAS PAPANDREOU, MAURY COMMENTED THAT WHILE US "PROBABLY COULD HAVE LIVED WITH THE PAPANDREOUS"
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(HAD THEY WON 1967 ELECTION), ANDREAS WAS "GULLIBLE AND CHANGEABLE", AND CLEARLY PLANNED TO BRING KNOWN RADICALS INTO GOVERNMENT, WHICH GREATLY CONCERNED GREEK MILITARY. IN RESPONSE TO ANOTHER QUESTION, MAURY SAID HE BELIEVED ANDREAS HAD "LIED" IN CLAIMING, AS HE HAD IN HIS BOOK, THAT CIA HAD DURING 1963-65 PAPANDREOU GOVERNMENT PROVIDED FINANCIAL SUPPORT TO KYP OUTSIDE GOG CHANNELS. MAURY SAID

FUNDS HAD, IN ACCORDANCE WITH LONG-STANDING PRACTICE, BEEN PROVIDED TO CHIEF OF KYP AS APPROPRIATE GREEK GOVERNMENT

CHANNEL, AND THAT ANDREAS HAD AT ALL TIMES BEEN AWARE OF THIS ARRANGEMENT. MAURY NOTED THAT ANDREAS, ACTING AS MINISTER TO PRIME MINISTER, HAD REQUESTED CIA FUNDS BE PAID DIRECTLY TO HIM, ALTHOUGH HE DECLINED, WHEN REQUESTED BY CIA, TO AGREE TO PROVIDE ACCOUNTING OF USE OF FUNDS. FOR THIS REASON, CIA/ATHENS, ON INSTRUCTIONS FROM WASHINGTON, MADE PAYMENTS TO CHIEF OF KYP, WHO HAD AGREED TO AND DID PROVIDE ACCOUNTING.

4. MAURY NOTED THAT CIA IN MID-1960'S WAS NOT SO MUCH INTERESTED IN GREEK INTERNAL POLITICS AS IN USING GREECE AS "HOMEROOM" FROM WHICH TO CONDUCT OPERATIONS AGAINST OTHER TARGETS IN AREA. MAURY ESTIMATED THAT IN EARLIER YEARS OF HIS TENURE PERHAPS ONLY 10 PER CENT OF CIA/ATHENS OPERATIONS CONCERNED GREECE.

5. MAURY ALSO MENTIONED FOLLOWING POINTS, NOTED IN WASHINGTON POST ARTICLE:

A. DURING COURSE OF 1967 ELECTION CAMPAIGN, AMBASSADOR TALBOT PROPOSED AND RECEIVED AUTHORIZATION FOR "MODEST PROGRAM" OF COVERT SUPPORT FOR MODERATE POLITICAL ELEMENTS WITHIN GREECE. MAURY REFUSED TO DISCUSS DETAILS OF PRO-CONFIDENTIAL

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GRAM.

B. IN RESPONSE TO QUESTION BY WASHINGTON POST REPORTER LAWRENCE STERN, MAURY DENIED KNOWLEDGE OF OR ACCURACY OF ALLEGED MEMO WRITTEN BY "SENIOR RESEARCHER" IN INR, TO EFFECT THAT USG HAD BEEN "MONITORING" PAPADOPOULOS GROUP, BUT DISCONTINUED THAT "MONITORING" IN JANUARY 1967. MAURY DENIED CIA HAD SPECIFICALLY PENETRATED PAPADOPOULOS GROUP, OR HAD ANY REASON TO BELIEVE THAT PAPADOPOULOS GROUP, AMONG THE MANY GROUPS RUMORED AT THE TIME TO BE PLOTTING A COUP, WAS ANY MORE LIKELY THAN OTHERS, ESPECIALLY GENERALS, TO STAGE COUP.

6. MAURY TAPED ENTIRE SESSION, AS DID TO VIMA WASHINGTON STRINGER IOANNIS ROUBATIS. LOW-LEVEL DEPTOFF ATTENDED BUT DID NOT ASK QUESTIONS OR OFFER ANY COMMENTS DURING MEETING. CHRISTOPHER

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Message Attributes

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Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
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Disposition History: n/a
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